

these tiny water animals are a principle food for fish and other water animals. So the reasoning has been, fertilizer means more water plants, which in turn means more tiny water animals which mean more fish and other seafoods. To what extent these things have been responsible for the tremendous seafood production in North Carolina coastal waters it is hard to say.

Other man-made changes are canals, dams, and locks. In some cases, whole animal communities have been changed by digging canals which have permitted salt water or brackish water to replace fresh water. An example of how destructive such things can be is represented by certain locks on the inland waterway canal near Norfolk, Virginia. The canal, of course, leads down into North Carolina's fresh water Currituck Sound and southward. To open the locks in Virginia would permit salt water to flow into Currituck Sound and kill out black bass and other fresh water animals.

These facts make necessary a close check by our State and Federal Governments on any structures or changes that might affect our coastal waters.

Fish and other water animals (aquatic life) may be placed in three groups: (1) Those which live entirely in salty or brackish water, (2) those which spend part of each year in salt water and a part in fresh water, and (3) those which live entirely in fresh water.

For the most part those fishes and other animals in group three are not considered in the commercial fisheries groups. Fresh water fishes for the most part are generally considered as game fishes and are considered to be more important from the recreation and sport they furnish than from their sale or food value. In this group of fresh water fishes are such kinds as largemouth and smallmouth bass, several kinds of bream, crappies, three kinds of trout that live in cold waters of the mountains and many others.

There are a few fishes living entirely in fresh water which figure in commercial fishing operations. Primarily these are various kinds of carp, catfish and suckers (fresh water mullets) when taken in large coastal sounds and portions of large rivers where commercial fishing operations are allowed. In some places many thousands of pounds of